



MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT-AUGUST 2013

For the Period of:	August 2013				
Name of the Grantee Organization:	Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC)				
Project Title:	Strengthening Institutional Coordination and Regional Structured Grain Trading System through Integrated Regional Market Information Systems, Policy and Reduced Barriers to Trade.				
Grant Agreement Number:	EAG-STA-012-029	Project Startup Date:	July.2013	Project end date:	Dec.2013
Project Location:	Countries: Kenya, Uganda , Tanzania , Rwanda and Burundi				

1. Introduction

This report from Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC) is for the period of August 2013 covering the activities implemented under USAID-EATH funding support. The EATH support to EAGC is aimed at achieving the following activities:

- Design and produce marketing materials to capture success and strengths and present EAGC value proposition
- Maintain market and border monitors submitting daily price data to RATIN to support timely, relevant and timely Market Intelligence to EAGC members
- Strengthen the Real-time Warehouse Volume Tracking (RTVT) System and promote use of data to support EAGC Members in relevant and credible Market Intelligence.
- Lead the registration/training of private sector contributors to National Food Balance Sheets (NFBS), coordinate quarterly meetings and ensure data upload monthly/quarterly.
- Support the consistent national implementation of harmonized regional staple foods quality standards.

2. Summary of Activities accomplished in August 2013

a) Data from the border and market monitors transmitted into RATIN.

EAGC continued monitoring the various 29 markets and 6 border points within the month. This has contributed to the timely transmission of market prices by 9.00am each day and cross border trade flows by end of each day. The Monitors have been supervised and mentored throughout the month. This has resulted to quality and relevant data transmitted to RATIN. The RATIN hits increased to 402,429 in August from 365,458 in July 2013.

b) Weekly Reports showing market trends and food security in the region developed

EAGC has continued improving the analysis of the data received in RATIN through the production of the weekly reports. The reports were produced each week of the month and posted on RATIN.

EAGC has developed an editing mechanism of the weekly report to ensure quality control of the information reported through RATIN. The weekly reports are based on data from RATIN and also from the daily sector reported collected by EAGC each day.

c) Grain Trade Summit Website developed and updated regularly.

Under the support of EATH, a consultant was engaged to develop the EAGC's Grain Trade Summit website. The website was developed to support communication on the summit. As a result of the elaborate and user friendly interactive site, EAGC has received a lot of publicity and visibility. The site also hosts the online registration for the delegates, speakers, and for the field visits. By end of this month over 100 delegates and 10 sponsors had registered for the summit, contributing to the sustainability and institutional strengthening of EAGC.

d) RATIN SMS Message Translation

EAGC continued promoting the use of the SMS system in all the countries where EAGC is represented. To support the system, EAGC translated the messages received through the SMS into Kinyarwanda and to Swahili. This has resulted to increased use of the SMS system in the region. Below is an example of the SMS translation:

- RATIN Prevailing **PRODUCT** Prices in Kigali Market in RFrancs/Kg as at 2013-08-30: Wholesale=204, Retail=214. Visit www.ratin.net for detailed market information. Service by EAGC
- RATIN Ibiciro bigezweho ku isoko ry'i Kigali ku itariki ya 30/08/2013

e) Follow up on the RTVT Warehouses

EAGC teams at the country offices continued monitoring the warehouses in which the RTVT system was installed. This involved supervision, and re-training of the users within the warehouses. So far data from the RUDI in Tanzania and the WFP warehouses have continued to send in data through the system.

f) Recruitment of Food Balance Sheet Private Sector contributors

EAGC continued supporting the recruitment of the food balance sheet private sector contributors in Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi. The recruited companies have continued transmitting data on the food balance sheet.

g) RATIN Interactive User Interface

EAGC held a meeting to discuss the best options for the RATIN user interface. The options were discussed with the IT consultant supported under EATH consultancy. The task will be completed in the next month.

h) Linkage with other MIS service Providers.

To ensure sustainability of RATIN, EAGC pursued the option of linking with other MIS service providers on a data sharing arrangement. During the month, EAGC discussed linkage with the CARANA Post Harvest Handling in Rwanda. On the way forward, EAGC will take over the PHHS process, and EAGC will use the information to enhance the report developed under RATIN and

provide the users with a more in-depth analysis and market intelligence through provision of wider breadth of information.

During the same month, EAGC hosted the Market Information Sub- group under FNSWG to finalize a data sharing mechanism with EAGC. In Uganda, EAGC is part of the Agri-Profocus group. This is a network of MIS service provided in Uganda. The team will host the National MIS symposium in September.

i) Meeting For Validating the EAC Harmonized Standards Trainers Guide and Promotional Materials.

EAGC and USAID EA Trade Hub called for a stakeholders meeting to review and validate the materials on EAC Harmonized Standards already developed by USAID EATH. The Validation Meeting took place on Thursday 15th August 2013 at EAGC. This followed a regional meeting in Arusha in July 2013 that approved and declared the 18 draft harmonized quality standards on staple foods as the new East African Standards (EAS).

During the validation meeting, the following materials were reviewed:

- EAC Harmonized Standards Trainers Guide
- EAC Harmonized Standards Promotional Materials

The meeting recommended that all documents be edited and revised by a technical expert to ensure that they conform to the final EAC standards and the practice. Attached are the minutes of the meeting.



Meeting_minutes_val
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j) Training farmers on new EAC grain standards and MIS during the EAGC Agribusiness Expo in Nakuru

A total of 459 farmers from Nakuru and other counties in Kenya benefited from the training offered by EAGC and its partners during the Agribusiness Expo in Nakuru. EAGC teamed up CGA, Lesiolo Grain Handlers and Intertek to deliver a comprehensive farmer training during the Kenya Agribusiness Expo. The training program was organized as below:

- a) CGA- Agronomic issues and Post Harvest Handling including aggregation.
- b) Lesiolo GHL- Quality analysis, drying, Fumigation and Storage
- c) Intertek- Warehouse Inspection and Stock Monitoring
- d) EAGC- EAC Grades and Standards ,Warehouse Receipt Process and Market Information Systems/RATIN

3. Other Non-Grant activities completed

i) EAGC holds the Agribusiness Expo in Nakuru Kenya

The EAGC Agri-business Expo 2013-Kenya edition took place on August 1-2, 2013 in Nakuru at the Kabarak University. The Expo organized by EAGC in partnership with Kabarak University and

Farming Systems of Kenya (FSK).

The Expo had a Crops Demonstration Unit with 190 plots with various cereals such as maize, wheat, sorghum, millet, barley, legumes, vegetables, tubers, root crops & oil crops amongst others. Mea Ltd sponsored the demo unit and it carried out soil testing and provided specially formulated fertilizers for all the crops exhibited.

The Livestock Section was the most visited by farmers having received one of the best livestock breeds from farms in Nakuru including Ngongogeri Farm of Egerton University, Kabarak Farm among others. The livestock unit sponsor was sponsored by Unga Farm Care Ltd.

This year, the Agribusiness Expo's media sponsor was Standard Group which provided media coverage for the event. Mediheal Hospital, our medical partner provided a fully equipped medical unit during the two days of the Expo as well as First Aid and Ambulance services giving the participants an opportunity to access free medical checkups & advice. The Networking Dinner was sponsored by Lesiolo Grain Handlers.

Lastly, SNV sponsored farmers to attend the Agribusiness Expo which in turn ensured a success farmer turn out of approximately 8,000. We had a total of 72 exhibitors who showcased different products and services at the Expo.

k) EAGC launches WRS in Laikipia County

On 14th August 2013, EAGC launched WRS in Laikipia County at a warehouse owned and operated by Ngarua Cereals and produce SHG. The launch was graced by Hon. Joshua Irungu-the Governor for Laikipia County.

The warehouse has a capacity of 1500 MT with enough space for storing maize and beans. In the last season, the warehouse has been able to aggregate 1,396 (90 kg) bags of maize, out of which 700 bags have been sold to traders at Ksh 2500 per bag. The stock in the warehouse currently is 696 (90 kg) bags.

Other warehouses in the County have been identified and they are undergoing assessment by EAGC inspector-Intertek Ltd.

4. Major activities planned for the next month (September 2013):

- Food Balance Sheet Meeting and Training workshop on EAC Standards- Sept, 16th – 20th , Kampala-Uganda
- Food Balance Sheet Meeting and Training workshop on EAC Standards Sept, 23rd - 27th- Nairobi-Kenya

5. Status of the Implementation of Activities to Date:

Results	Milestones	Achievement as at August 2013
Activity # 1: EAGC Institutional Strengthening		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholders kept aware of EAGC programs and services Increased EAGC membership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A list of potential members developed by end of Aug.2013 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The scoping for potential members is ongoing.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EAGC membership development materials produced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publication of materials is yet to be done.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20% increase in membership by end of Dec 2013 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total EAGC Members stands at 128 to date. Member visits done in Tanzania
Activity # 2: Strengthening of Structured Trading Systems		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness materials for new EAC standards translated and printed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 translations done (Swahili & Kinyarwanda) by end of July 2013 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Translation to begin once the materials are reviewed and edited.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness campaigns on harmonized EAC standards carried out Stakeholders use harmonized EAC standards Support national governments and regulatory authorities in the adoption and planning for roll out of standards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 125 graders trained on new EAC standards by Dec 2013 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training scheduled to start in September 2013.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EAGC signs MOUs with National Bureaus of Standards on implementation of new standards by Dec 2013 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MOU between EAGC and Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) developed and submitted to UNBS for review. Draft MOU with Tanzania Bureau of Standards is being developed.
Activity# 3: Strengthening of Generation, Dissemination and Coordination of Market Intelligence		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RATIN maintained to offer regional market and trade information Regional Food Balance Sheet (RFBS) updated and maintained Real-time Warehouse Volume Tracking (RTVT) System strengthened 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20% increase in RATIN web & SMS hits by end of Dec 2013 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10% increase in RATIN hits in August compared to July 2013
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20% increase in RFBS data contributors by end of project extension period 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NFBS Committee Meeting held in Nairobi.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All registered warehouses transmit real time volumes on regular basis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuous